



## Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday August 19, 2020

Time: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-chairs Grossman and Bauer, Commissioners Baron, Brown, Carney, Haynes, Horowitz, Jolin, Minton, Pusey, Rogers, Soneja,

DEI Coordinator: Jillian Harvey

Intern: Noah Sweder

Arlington Police Department: Captain Flynn

Community Members: Christina Harrison, Anne Brown, Christine Noah, Katie Sonin, Chris DiMeo, Len Diggins, Miriam Stein, Rebecca Gruber, Tessa Erbe, Eliza Royer, David Kranz

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:00pm by Co-chair Grossman

1. Co-chair Report
  - a. Statement on social media
  - b. Statement on issue in India sent to embassy
  - c. Commissioners were asked to volunteer for BLM working group

- d. Thank you to intern Noah Sweder, for whom this was his last meeting
- 2. Review of Minutes
  - a. A motion to accept the July minutes was made by Commissioner Pusey, seconded by Commissioner Brown, unanimously passed.
- 3. Review of Community Input
  - a. Three speakers raised issues including an appreciation for outreach and events that have been sponsored and co-sponsored by the Human Rights Commission, a desire that the Commission involve other groups in its planning, support for the Social Media statement, and a desire that everyone who is on a Zoom event be seen on the screen. It was noted that the co-chairs met with the Diversity Task Group's co-chairs this past month, community members are encouraged to join Working Groups as is already occurring, and the Events Working Group is exploring a variety of ways to enhance the use of Zoom and webinars.
- 4. Budget discussion
  - a. We continue to work on setting up an account to process sign purchases via the website.
- 5. Rules & Regulations
  - a. Commissioner Rogers outlined the proposed changes to the Commission's rules and regulations. Commissioners were asked to review the submitted proposal for further discussion and a vote at the next meeting.
- 6. Indigenous Peoples Day
  - a. Co-chairs have been in contact with Arlington Public Schools administrators about Indigenous Peoples Day
  - b. Commissioner Haynes has reached out to Indigenous people living in and around Arlington to assist in upcoming events
  - c. The Commission is proposing the Town move forward in changing October 12th to be "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Arlington
  - d. A motion to begin crafting a regarding the proposed change to Indigenous Peoples Day was made by Commissioner Soneja, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved.
- 7. Review of Working Groups system
  - a. Overall, Commissioners agreed that this system is working well, looking to get more community members involved & seek volunteers for specific tasks. It has helped the Commission increase its capacity.
- 8. Review of Working Groups
  - a. Outreach
    - i. Continuing to work on an infographic to explain how the community can

become involved with the AHRC

ii. Drafting survey questions for the town survey to assist in resident's impressions about human rights in Arlington

iii. Building relationships with similarly minded town

b. Communication

i. Plans for upcoming event.

ii. Newsletter outline ideas included:

- Restating work the commission has done
- Reporting out from meetings
- Relink to previous statements
- Recap previous events
- Preview upcoming events
- Short survey questions to engage the community
- Platform for a working groups and other town commissions

iii. AHRC now has an Instagram account

c. Schools and Education

Waiting for School Committee to respond to memo

d. Events

a. The calendar of events was shared

9. Community Input

a. One community member spoke about her appreciation of the work of the Commission.

10. Incidents:

1. 14 Black Lives Matter, Hate Has No Home Here and Love Lives Here signs taken or vandalized in the last month
2. Black Lives Matter working group will address these

11. Housing Issues

a. A motion to table the agenda item was made by Commissioner Soneja, seconded by Commissioner Carney, and unanimously approved

12. Announcements: None

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Carney, and unanimously approved at 10:00p.m.

**Next meeting:** Sep 16, 2020, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, [jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.